

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00117 121417Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 CU-02 IO-13 /081 W
-----121500Z 017990 /44

P R 121340Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1841
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSULATE MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 0117

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, CSCE, SHUM, CZ
SUBJECT: PRAGUE GOVERNMENT REVILES CHARTER 77

REF PRAGUE 0108

1. AUTHORITATIVE RUDE PRAVO EDITORIAL JANUARY 12 LAYS DOWN THE
LINE WHICH HAS APPARENTLY BEEN WORKED OUT TOWARDS CHARTER 77,
AND IT IS UNCOMPROMISINGLY HARD. LACED WITH VITRIOL, THE HALF-PAGE
ARTICLE ATTACKS CHARTER 77 AND SOME OF ITS MOST PROMINENT SIGNERS
BY NAME AND EPITHET, IDENTIFYING THEM AS "AGENTS OF WORLD REACTION"
AND ACCUSING THEM OF TRYING TO TURN BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP MEETING
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INTO "A PROPARJNDISTIC ARENA FOR ATTACKS AGA
OST SOCIALIST COUNTRIES".
DENOUNCING THE LOCAL "DON QUIXOTES" FOR WISHING TO LEAD A NEW COUNTER
-
REVOLUTION, RUDE PRAVO WARNS THAT "THERE WILL BE NO REPTITION
OF 1968 HERE".

2. COMMENT: CZECHOSLOVAK REGIME HAS TAKEN ITS STAND ON CHARTER 77 AND FOR THE MOMENT A HARD LINE IN THE ASCENDANT. BY RESPONDING TO CHARTER 77 IN A FIRM AND HIGHLY VISIBLE WAY, EVEN CITING FOLLOWING MORNING'S RUDE PRAVO ARTICLE ON EVENING TELEVISION JANUARY 11, GOC HAS CALLED ATTENTION TO CHARTER 77 AND ITS SIGNERS. ARTICLE APPEARS TO REPRESENT A WARNING TO THIS GROUP AND OTHERS THAT IN THE SIX MONTHS LEADING UP TO BELGRADE 77 MEETING FURTHER PROVOCATIONS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THE RUDE PRAVO EDITORIAL MAY BE A STEPPING STONE TOWARD JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS AND POSSIBLE IMPRISONMENT OF LEADING DISSIDENTS--ACTIONS WHICH HUSAK HAS WISHED TO AVOID IN THE PAST. FOR TIME BEING, WE BELIEVE CURRENT PATTERN OF DETENTION FOR QUESTIONING SEARCH OF RESIDENCE FOLLOWED BY RELEASE WITHIN 48 HOURS AND OTHER FORMS OF HARASSMENT WILL CONTINUE. REGIME DOUBTLESS FEELS PRESSURE TO FOLLOW MOSCOW'S LEAD IN TIGHTENING UP ON DISSIDENTS DURING THIS PERIOD, SOME SIX MONTHS BEFORE BELGRADE 77.

3. FULL TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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